

DOI Waiver Letter In ERU File

TAB

UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

DOI Waiver Letter In ERU File

As it is desirable that uniform usage in regard to geographic nomenclature and orthography obtain throughout the Executive Departments of the Government, and particularly upon the maps and charts issued by the various Departments and bureaus, I hereby constitute a Board on Geographic Names and designate the following persons, who have heretofore cooperated for a similar purpose under the authority of the several Departments, bureaus, and institutions with which they are connected, as members of said Board:

Prof. Thomas C. Mendenhall, United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, Chairman.
Andrew H. Allen, Department of State.
Capt. Henry L. Howison, Light-House Board, Treasury Department.
Capt. Thomas Turtle, Engineer Corps, War Department.
Lieut. Richardson Clover, Hydrographic Office, Navy Department.
Otis T. Mason, Smithsonian Institution.
Herbert G. Ogden, United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.
Henry Gannett, United States Geological Survey.
Marcus Baker, United States Geological Survey.

To this Board shall be referred all unsettled questions concerning geographic names which arise in the Departments, and the decisions of the Board are to be accepted by these Departments as the standard authority in such matters.

Department officers are instructed to afford such assistance as may be proper to carry on the work of this Board.

The members of this Board shall serve without additional compensation, and its organization shall entail no expense on the Government.

Benj. Harrison

Executive Mansion
September 4, 1890

EXECUTIVE ORDER

The official title of the United States Board on Geographic Names is changed to United States Geographic Board.

In addition to its present duties, advisory powers are hereby granted to this Board concerning the preparation of maps compiled, or to be compiled, in the various bureaus and offices of the Government, with a special view to the avoidance of unnecessary duplications of work; and for the unification and improvement of the scales of maps, of the symbols and conventions used upon them, and of the methods of representing relief. Hereafter all such projects as are of importance shall be submitted to this Board for advice before being undertaken.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

The White House

August 10, 1906

EXECUTIVE ORDER

ABOLISHMENT OF THE UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD AND TRANSFER
OF ITS FUNCTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WHEREAS section 16 of the act of March 3, 1933 (ch. 212, 47 Stat. 1517), provides for reorganizations within the Executive Branch of the Government, requires the President to investigate and determine what reorganizations are necessary to accomplish the purposes therein stated, and authorizes the President to make such reorganizations by Executive Order; and

WHEREAS after investigation I find and declare that the abolishment of the United States Geographic Board and the transfer of its functions to the Department of the Interior would be in the public interest and would effectuate the purposes of said section 16;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of and pursuant to the authority vested in me by the aforesaid section 16 of the act of March 3, 1933, it is ordered that the United States Geographic Board be, and it is hereby abolished; and it is further ordered that all of the functions of said Board, together with its chairman, secretary, and clerk-stenographer, records, supplies, equipment, and property of every kind, and unexpended balances of appropriations, be, and they are hereby transferred to the Department of the Interior to be administered under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior.

This order will become effective in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of title III of the act of March 20, 1933 (ch. 3, 48 Stat. 16); Provided, that in case it shall appear to the President that the interests of economy require that the transfer be delayed beyond the date this order becomes effective, he may, in his discretion, fix a later date therefor, and he may for like cause further defer such date from time to time.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Done in triplicate.

The White House,
April 17, 1934.

(NO. 6680)

TAB

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Washington

October 26, 1944.

ORDER NO. 2002

Subject: Declaration of functions and responsibilities of the constituent parts of the United States Board on Geographical Names.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 161, Revised Statutes (5 U.S.C. sec. 22); section 16 of the Act of March 3, 1933 (ch. 212, 47 Stat. 1517); section 1, Title III, of the Act of March 20, 1933 (ch. 3, 48 Stat. 16); Executive Orders No. 27-A, dated September 4, 1890; No. 399, dated January 23, 1906; No. 493, dated August 10, 1906; No. 3206, dated December 30, 1919; and No. 6680, dated April 17, 1934; this order prescribes the functions of the Division of Geography and the Advisory Committee which together shall be known as the United States Board on Geographical Names:

I. The primary function and responsibility of the United States Board on Geographical Names is to obtain uniform usage in geographic nomenclature and orthography throughout the Federal agencies, and particularly on the maps and charts prepared by them.

II. The Director of the Division of Geography is appointed by and is responsible to the Secretary of the Interior.

III. The Division of Geography, under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior, is responsible for the following geographic name functions:

- (a) Formulates major rules, principles, and policies for the treatment of domestic and foreign geographic names;
- (b) Prepares detailed rules, instructions, and procedures to standardize the treatment of geographic names, including tables of transliteration and transcription for non-Roman and nonalphabetic languages, by countries, groups of countries, or languages, and including lists of authorities with their reliability and order of precedence indicated.
- (c) Investigates and recommends action on:
 - (1) Geographic names which are to be determined, changed, and fixed in the United States, its territories and possessions, international waters, and in lands or waters to which the United States has not formally recognized the sovereignty of a foreign nation.

- (2) Proposed new names for previously unnamed features in the United States, its territories and possessions, international waters, and in lands or waters to which the United States has not formally recognized the sovereignty of a foreign nation.
- (3) Foreign geographic names in dispute, conflict, varied usage, or other uncertainty.
- (d) Works cooperatively with local boards, associations, and individuals in determining geographic name usage within the United States and its possessions.
- (e) Works cooperatively with corresponding agencies in other countries to attain consistency in the international treatment of geographic names.
- (f) Prepares gazetteers of geographic names.
- (g) Issues a series of publications as part of its program.
- (h) Maintains master files of geographic names and of research materials needed for the performance of its functions.
- (i) Transcribes or transliterates geographic names from non-Roman and nonalphabetic languages, at the specific request of a Federal agency lacking facilities.
- (j) Acts as a clearing house for information concerning geographic name work being done by Federal agencies, including transcription and the preparation of gazetteers.
- (k) Provides information requested by Federal agencies concerning the locations of places and the spelling or pronunciation of geographic names, when practicable without excessive research.
- (l) Reviews for compliance with official policy and the rules of the Board or checks, in detail, geographic names on maps and charts to be published, upon request by Federal agencies, insofar as practicable.

IV. The functions and composition of the Advisory Committee are as follows:

- (a) Because of the interdepartmental scope of the Board's activities the Advisory Committee, unless the Secretary of the Interior in any particular matter determines otherwise, reviews and approves, before final approval by the Secretary of the Interior, all principles, policies, technical procedures and name recommendations with respect to geographic names to be followed by Federal agencies.

It advises the Secretary of the Interior as to general policy, procedures and technical matters. Except as otherwise directed by the Secretary of the Interior the Division of Geography is guided by the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in matters relating to the use of decisions and rulings of the Board by Federal agencies.

- (b) The Committee membership shall consist of representatives of Federal agencies most concerned with geographic names and of professional associations. It may also include individuals and representatives of private groups. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Secretary with approval of the agency concerned, and the number of members shall be fixed from time to time by the Secretary. Members shall serve for a period of two years but they shall be eligible for reappointment. All members not representing Federal agencies shall be non-voting members. The Committee shall be headed by a chairman nominated by the Committee and appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. When additions to, and changes in agencies or groups to be represented are desirable, the Advisory Committee shall make recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior. The Director of the Division of Geography shall serve as Executive Secretary to the Advisory Committee, and shall be a member of the Committee, but not vote.

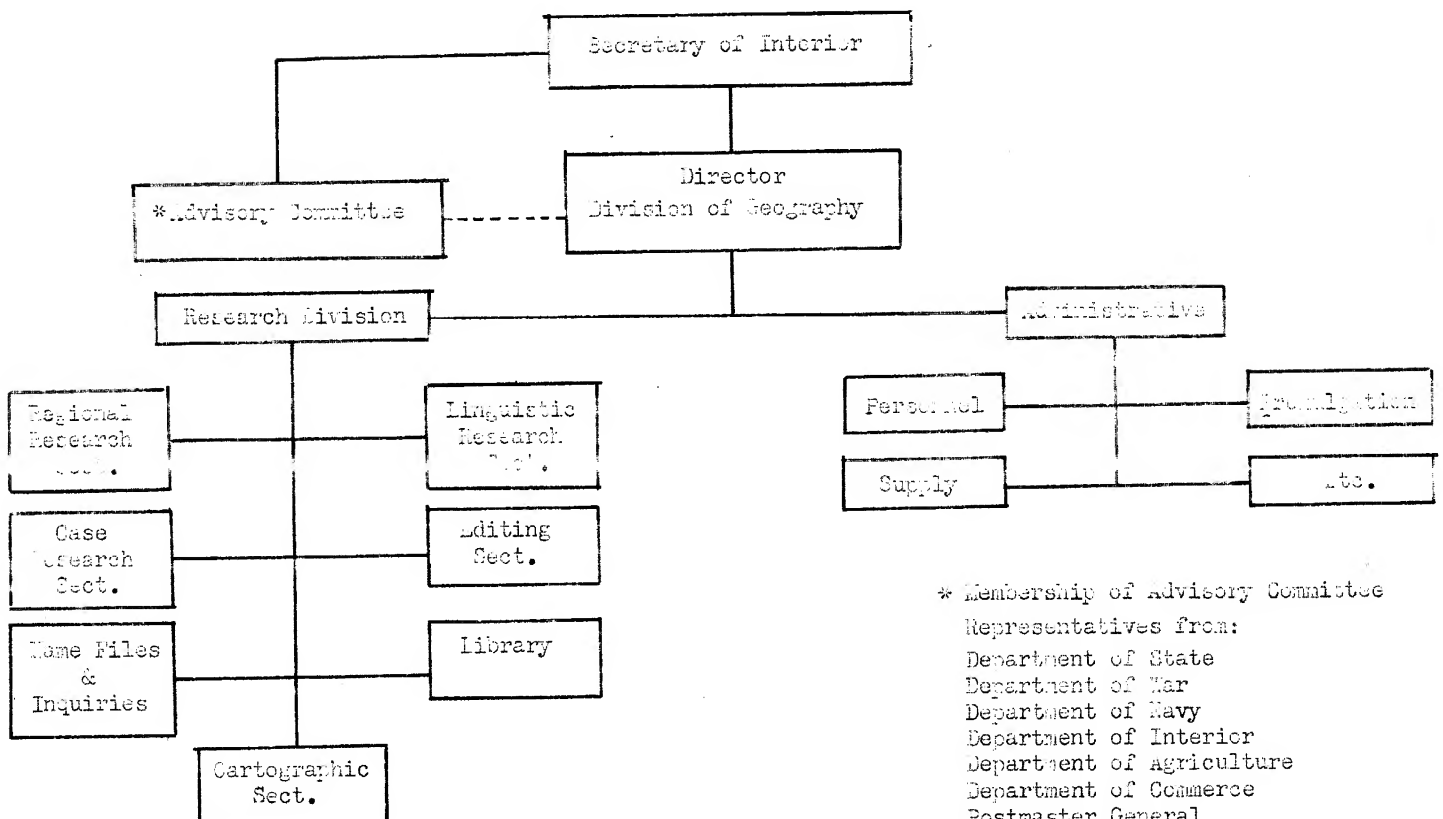
V. To the extent of any inconsistency with the provisions hereof, Order No. 1010 of December 10, 1935, and Order No. 1944 of April 17, 1944, are hereby modified.

/s/ HAROLD L. ICKES

Secretary of the Interior.

TAB

BOARD OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES



* Membership of Advisory Committee
Representatives from:
Department of State
Department of War
Department of Navy
Department of Interior
Department of Agriculture
Department of Commerce
Postmaster General
Government Printing Office
Library of Congress
Others upon recommendation of
the Board.

Note: The Advisory Committee is concerned with policies governing the activities of the Board as well as with the substantive recommendations of the Research Division.

TAB

(Draft substitute for H.R. 1555, unanimously approved by the Advisory Committee (Board on Geographical Names) at a special meeting March 14, 1947; the bill also has the approval of the Bureau of the Budget, which was represented by three officers at the meeting.)

A B I L L

To promote uniformity of geographic nomenclature in the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior, hereinafter called the Secretary, conjointly with the Board on Geographic Names, as hereinafter provided, shall provide for uniformity in geographic nomenclature and orthography throughout the Federal Government. The Secretary may exercise his functions through such officials as he may designate, except that such authority as relates to the final approval or review of actions of the Board on Geographic Names shall be exercised by him, or his Under or Assistant Secretaries.

Sec. 2. There is hereby established a Board on Geographic Names, hereinafter called the Board. The membership of the Board shall include one representative from each of the Departments of State, War, Navy, Post Office, Interior, Agriculture and Commerce, and from the Government Printing Office, and the Library of Congress. The Board may also include representatives from such Federal agencies as the Secretary, upon recommendation of the Board, shall from time to time find desirable, even though these agencies are in the departments otherwise represented on the Board. The members of the Board shall be appointed by the respective heads of the departments

- 2 -

or independent agencies that they represent. Each member shall be appointed for a two-year term but may be reappointed to successive terms. The members of the Board shall serve without additional compensation. The Board shall nominate a Chairman to be appointed by the Secretary, and shall establish such working committees as are found desirable.

Sec. 3. The Board, subject to the approval of the Secretary, shall formulate principles, policies and procedures to be followed with reference to both domestic and foreign geographic names; and shall decide the standard names and their orthography for official use. The principles, policies and procedures formulated hereunder shall be designed to serve the interests of the Federal Government and the general public, to enlist the effective cooperation of the Federal departments and agencies most concerned, and to give full consideration to the specific interests of particular Federal and state agencies. Action may be taken by the Secretary in any matter wherein the Board does not act within a reasonable time. The Board may make such recommendations to the Secretary as it finds appropriate in connection with this Act. Negotiations with foreign governments with respect to foreign geographic names shall be conducted through the Department of State to such extent and in such manner as may be jointly determined by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Interior.

Sec. 4. The Secretary shall cause such studies and investigations

- 3 -

to be made and such records to be kept as may be necessary or desirable in carrying out the purposes of this Act, and he shall provide a place of meeting and staff assistance to the Board. The staff shall be responsible to the Secretary, who shall prescribe its relations to the Board and to the committees of the Board. The Secretary may establish, from time to time, upon recommendation of the Board, advisory committees of United States citizens who are recognized experts in their respective fields to assist in the solution of special problems arising under this Act.

Sec. 5. For the guidance of the Federal Government, the Secretary shall promulgate in the name of the Board, from time to time and in such form as will carry out the purposes of this Act, decisions with respect to geographic names and principles of geographic nomenclature and orthography. The Secretary shall also furnish such additional information with respect to geographic names as will assist in carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Sec. 6. With respect to geographic names the pertinent decisions and principles issued by the Secretary shall be standard for all material published by the Federal Government.

Sec. 7. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as applying to the naming of the offices or establishments of any Federal agency.

Sec. 8. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

TAB

THE PLACE - NAME PROBLEM

WHAT IS IT ?

TOWN CITY VILLAGE
RIVER MOUNTAIN WELL
MINE RAILROAD STATION
AIRFIELD CANAL REEF

WHERE IS IT ?

NORTH SOUTH EAST WEST
25 MILES FROM X
368 KILOS NORTH OF Y
LAT. 140° N. LONG. 37° E.

**WHAT IS THE NAME
& ITS SPELLING ?**

Kanggyong Targo Gangri
Горький Gor'kiy (Gorki)
인천 Inch'ŏn (Chemulpo)
瀋陽 Shen-yang (Mukden)

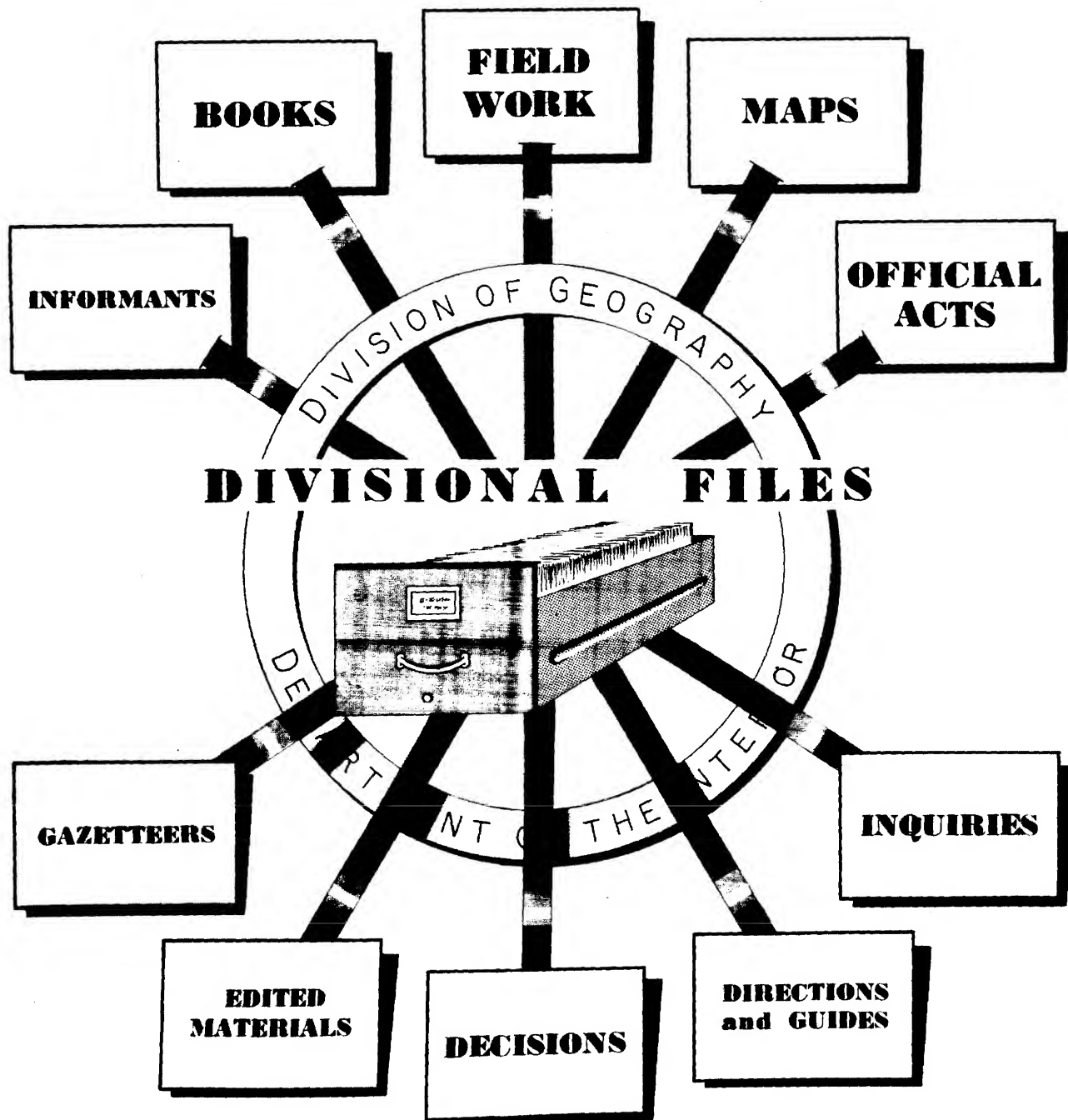
The Place Name Problem

Simply stated the problem is one of identification of a "correct" name with its proper object. "Correctness" of a name may be reflective of an adequate or proper transcription or transliteration; a recent over a former name; an application to a specific name among choices; and other elements. In other words what is it? Where is it? How is it spelled? And of course the magnitude and importance of the job are essential parts of the problem. The technical and scientific importance of the job should not be overlooked.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
DIVISION OF GEOGRAPHY

CENTRALIZED PERFORMANCE

KEY TO EFFICIENCY AND UNIFORMITY



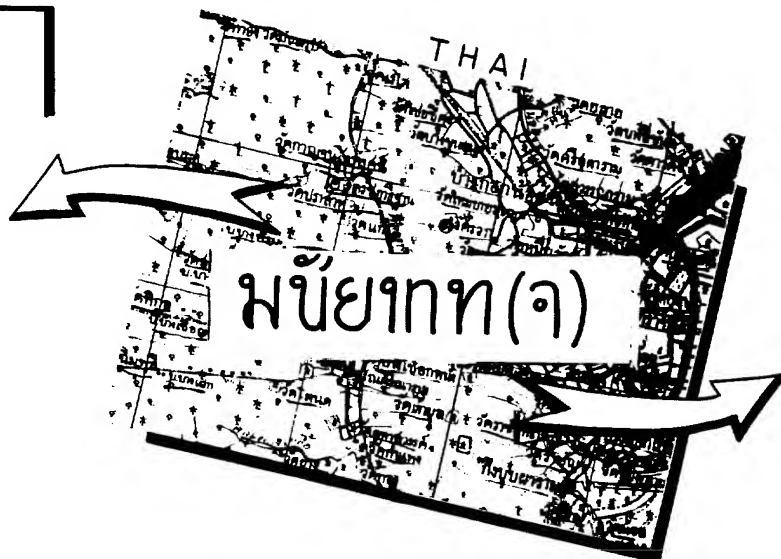
"Centralized Performance"

Since geographical names are the exclusive interest of no one agency and are common denominators to all intelligence agencies there appears to be significant benefits that would accrue from centralized performance. The technical nature of the problem requires specialized personnel and the use of procedures and tools such as a central name and information file to give consistently high quality answers.

A strong argument can be made on the grounds that information abstracted and provided by this central agency is impartially given to all agencies upon request.

TRANSCRIPTION AND STANDARDIZATION

STANDARD
FORM
(B. G. N.)



OTHER FORMS

Amphoe Ban Kluai
Chai Nad
Cheinat
Jainat
Muang Chainat
Muang Jai Nadh
Muang Xai Nat

DZAUDZHIKAU



Ordzhonikidze
Ordshonikidse
Valdikavkaz
Wladikawkas

HAEJU

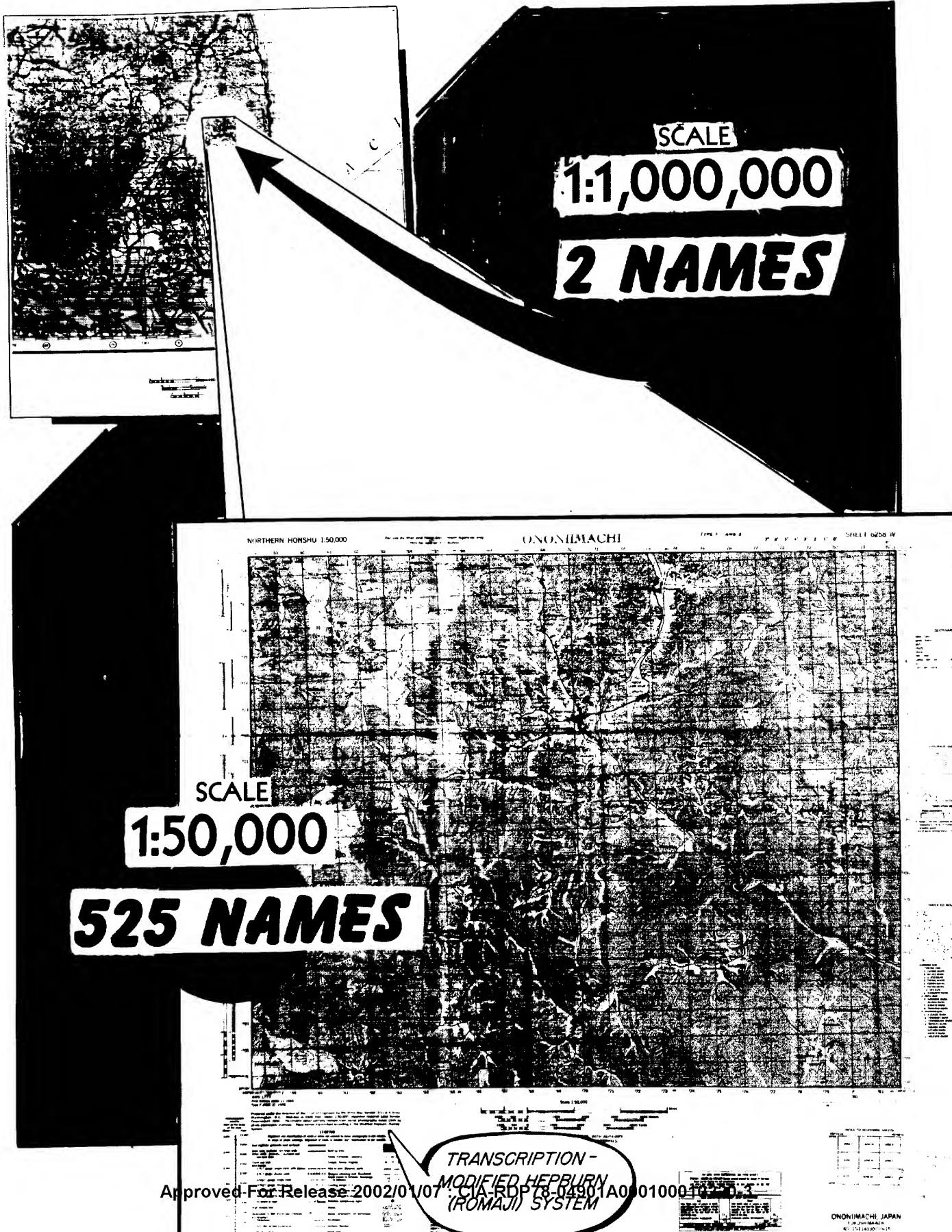


Hai-dschu
Hai-ju
Haitcheou
Hai-tjyou
Kaisyū
Kaishū

"Transcription and Standardization"

No individual or organization working separately can provide standard forms for names originally appearing in non-Latin or non-alphabet languages. The effort must be centralized and specialized and there must be acceptance by all agencies of the findings. Such is possible only through support of an organization such as the Board on Geographical Names, which by virtue of its interdepartmental character is designed to achieve such standardization.

RATIO OF NAMES AND MAP SCALE



"The Problem of Scale"

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The magnitude of the job can be realized only if one is aware of the geometric progression of increase in name requirements with the increase in scale of interest, which interest may be large scale mapping or interest in the spelling and location of places for other intelligence purposes. Before World War II maps at scales of 1:1,000,000 or smaller seemed sufficient for all purposes except extremely localized requirements. It seems patent now that the intelligence interests of the government at present warrant moving towards a program of information on geographical names of the world at large scale.

It is roughly estimated that requirements at scales of only 1:1,000,000 will require information on approximated 30,000,000 place names plus a minimum of 150,000,000 variant or other forms. We estimate that not more than 3% of this work has been accomplished. However, the present Board in one year is processing more names than the total processed in the more than 50 years of the Board's existence. And the number is increasing rapidly with improvements in methods being developed.

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AGENCIES SERVED

JULY 1 - DEC. 31
1946

125

INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES

"Agencies Served"

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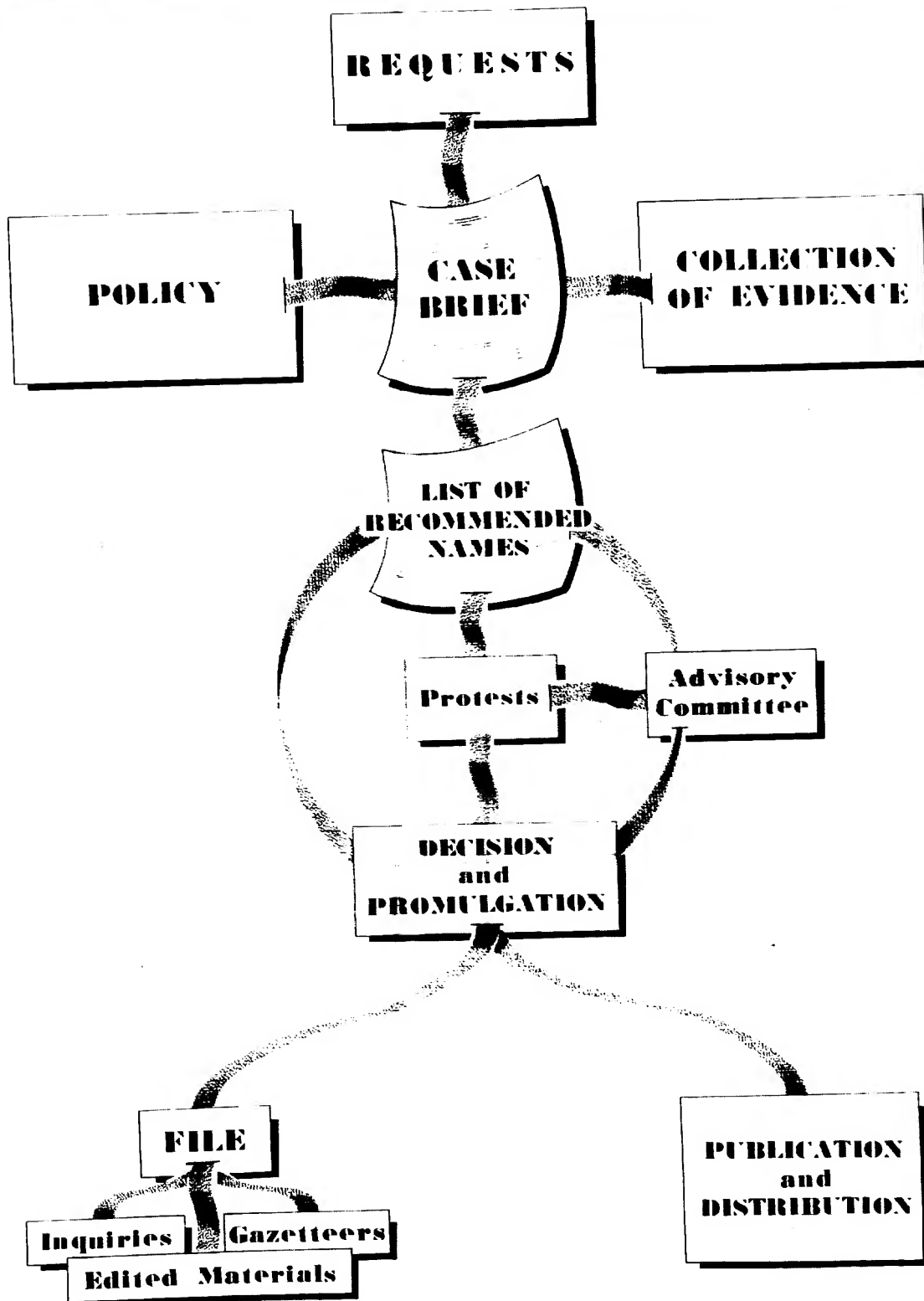
Since July 1, 1946 (note: a considerable period after V-J Day) 125 different Federal offices have called on this office for assistance in the solution of place-name problems. The savings to the Federal Government in time and money alone would seem apparent; but perhaps of equal significance is the fact that all agencies received a standard answer. This is possible only because of the central files of information which for a significant proportion of the requests involved only the cost of a telephone call and an examination of the file.

Probably over 400 different Federal offices, over half of which are State, War and Navy agencies, receive publications of the Board through its regular mailing list.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
DIVISION OF GEOGRAPHY

PROCEDURE FOR RENDERING DECISIONS



Procedure for Rendering Decisions

This chart serves to illustrate the procedure by which name determinations are reached. Essential in the argument is the fact that determinations are not reached in a vacuum but through the assistance of all agencies interested and with a stake in the problem.

TAB

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE FOR PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: Transfer of CIG Funds to the Secretary of Interior
 for Allocation to the Board on Geographical Names.

1. Pursuant to the establishment of a CIG requirement for services from the Board on Geographical Names, a transfer of CIG funds to the Department of Interior to the extent of approximately \$4,500 is required to meet the salaries of personnel to be so engaged for the duration of the current fiscal year.

2. Immediate action by your office is necessary in order to accomplish the transfer of funds prior to 6 April 1947, the effective date on which subject personnel will be terminated due to lack of funds.

3. It is therefore requested that:

a. Your office take such action as is necessary in order to accomplish the objectives of the foregoing.

b. Contact Planning Staff, ORE, extensions 2803-04, for detailed information required.

TAB

2 April 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR REPORTS AND ESTIMATES
THROUGH: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FROM: EXECUTIVE FOR PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

1. I do not concur in paragraph 6 of the attached proposed letter from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Secretary of the Interior.

2. At the time this project was discussed with me, I was assured that GHI's only financial responsibility would be the salary of the four individuals concerned in this project. Later information indicates that the Interior Department desires to request reimbursement from GHI on a project basis. It is assumed that this project basis will include not only the pay of the individuals concerned, but a proportionate share of the overhead charged to administering these people and the necessary logistical support. If these facts are true, paragraph 6 is erroneous in its statement and should be amended to include the project basis for reimbursement.

3. If project reimbursement is to be utilized before granting final approval, I would like to have an estimate from the Department to cover overhead and logistic cost above the pay of the individuals assigned to the [REDACTED] group.

25X1A6a

25X1A9a

[REDACTED]
Colonel, AGD
Executive for Personnel
and Administration

cc: [REDACTED]
Mr. E. R. Saunders

25X1A9a

25X1A9a

25X1A9a

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
NEW WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
21st and VIRGINIA AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Honorable
J. A. Krug
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The Central Intelligence Group has a continuing interest in, and a firm requirement for, the services rendered to the several agencies of the Federal Government by the Board on Geographical Names.

These services are particularly pertinent to foreign name problems arising within the intelligence agencies of the State, War and Navy Departments and this office, with respect to facilitating greatest interchangeability of intelligence informations, and standardization of intelligence indexing procedures.

Accordingly, the member agencies of the Intelligence Advisory Board and the offices of CIG have been requested to alert all personnel concerned in this field to the Executive Orders governing the mission and authorities of the Board.

It has come to my attention that the services of the [redacted] Group, Personnel Division, Board on Geographical Names are being terminated due to lack of funds for salaries for the balance of the current fiscal year.

This office regards the name problem in the [redacted] area as being particularly pressing in view of known requirements for names in the central and northern areas.

It is therefore desired that the [redacted] Group be retained by the Board to be employed on name problems in the central and northern areas of [redacted] in accordance with specific requirements to be conveyed by this office to the Director of the Board at a later date. Funds for this purpose will be transferred to the Department of Interior by CIG in amounts sufficient to cover the salaries of the four personnel engaged in this activity for the balance of the current fiscal year.

25X1A6a

25X1A6a

25X1A6a

It is requested that CIG be accorded membership on the Advisory Committee of the Board in order to represent its intelligence interests in foreign name problems.

Sincerely,

HOYT S. VANDENBERG
Lieutenant General, USA
Director of Central Intelligence

1973

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14.03

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

19937

MAR 12 1977

Director of Central Intelligence,
21st Street and Virginia Avenue, N. W.,
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Edgar.

My dear Sir:

As you suggested in our recent conversation, I am outlining here several problems regarding the continued contribution of this office to the solution of geographical name problems, of the several Federal intelligence agencies.

1. personnel: This office for the past several years has employed a group of four native [redacted], on problems of [redacted] place names for the Army Map Service, Corps of Engineers, under a Working Fund agreement. We have recently been advised that this service will no longer be required by the Map Service, because of completion of major programs of map compilation in this area, and we have therefore given notice of reduction in force to these employees, with separation to be effective April 6, 1947.

It seems regrettable, in view of the known problems of geographical names of [redacted] of the several intelligence agencies, particularly in the areas of western and northern [redacted] and adjacent areas, that the services of these persons may be lost. Their experiences in the technical solution of geographical name problems cannot be readily replaced, and their loss will be keenly felt. It is suggested therefore, that if funds may be available from the Central Intelligence Group to continue the employment of all, or part, of the group, at least for the remainder of the current fiscal year, or until such time as other funds may become available, this personnel may be applied to problems of concern to the Central Intelligence Group. The yearly cost of this personnel in salary approximates \$15,000.

We feel that the security question regarding this alien personnel need not be a problem, since the research involved is exclusively one of the transcription, standardization and location of geographical names. This personnel has never had access to classified information.



2. Geographical name information: As we indicated to you at the time of our meeting, we have noted a significant increase in the number of requests for geographical name information from Central Intelligence Group offices, since the issuance of your memorandum of August 30, 1946, regarding the use of BGN procedures. These requests have taken the form of requests for publications of this office, and for assistance in the solution of specific name problems through our telephone and mail information service. We have edited several long lists of names and have provided information on large numbers of individual telephoned requests. No effort has been made by this office to solicit requests for information, but we are informed that many of your various subdivisions do not use the service, because of lack of specific information or instruction.

Since 1943, this service has been financed with Working Funds allocated by the Corps of Engineers. Beginning with next fiscal year, that agency has indicated that it considers the performance of this service for only the War Department a proper charge against Engineer funds, but that they should not finance this service to others.

This office has requested an appropriation item to finance non-War Department inquiries for fiscal year 1948, but the chances of approval of the item do not appear promising. Since this service represents a material saving in convenience to the Central Intelligence Group and the groups under its jurisdiction, you may wish to inquire into the possibility of providing part of the funds for its continuance.

While we have been glad to supply such information in the past from available funds, subsequent additional increases in requests may necessarily have to be rejected. This would be unfortunate, since we believe that our facilities and techniques are the most efficient available for solution of what may be extremely expensive problems.

3. Janis editing: The Army Map Service also questions the propriety of its supporting, during the fiscal year 1948, the name editing work by BGN on publications of the Joint Army-Navy Intelligence Study Publishing Board. We have been informally advised by the Army Map Service that it does not consider this work to be a justifiable expense, since it benefits all participating agencies.

This office has participated in the preparation of these studies since their inception, and you are aware of the significance of our contribution. The work involved is the editing of the materials

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to secure the necessary agreement of geographical names in manuscripts prepared by the contributing agencies working with heterogeneous sources of information. In addition, a complete gazetteer (Chapter XIII) is prepared to facilitate the use of each of the studies.

The cost involved in this work during the last calendar year approximates \$60,000 but this amount is being reduced gradually with the introduction of increasingly efficient methods.

Mr. Louis Quam, Director of the Joint Board, will gladly verify the above facts. He may be reached at the office of the Joint Intelligence Board, telephone War Department, extension 76958.

We appreciate your interest in the problems raised, and shall be glad to provide additional information regarding any of the above matters.

Very truly yours,

Meredith F. Burrill

Meredith F. Burrill,
Director.

2/15

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